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**Boston
University
Medical
Campus**

Campus UPDATE

May 1991

Vol. 3 No. 5



Commencement and Alumni Weekend are set to take place on the second weekend in May

Let the balloons fly—Commencement Day 1991, as well as Alumni Weekend, are just days away. On Sunday, May 12, 424 School of Medicine, School of Public Health and Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry students will join their fellow Boston University colleagues in a joint graduation program on the Charles River Campus. Eduard A. Shevardnadze, former Soviet foreign minister and a principal architect of prestroika, will be the commencement speaker. A close ally of Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Shevardnadze resigned from his post last December, warning that the Soviet Union faced the danger of dictatorship. Since his resignation, he has been engaged in establishing an independent research center in Moscow for



the study of foreign policy.

Shevardnadze will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the graduation exercises. His topic will be "The Soviet Union and the New World Order."

Universitywide commencement exercises will begin at 11 a.m., rain or shine on Nickerson Field. Line-up for commencement will take place at 10:30 a.m.

The School of Medicine commencement speaker will be Robert Coles, M.D., a professor of psychiatry and

medical humanities at Harvard Medical School and the author of many books on children. In 1973, he won a Pulitzer prize for volumes two and three of "Children in Crisis." The speaker for the School of Public Health will be David Mulligan, state commissioner of public health, while the Goldman School speaker will be Herbert Schilder, D.D.S., chairman of the Department of Endodontics.

As part of the graduation event, the Medical Campus will host a precommencement breakfast in the parking lot of the Talbot Green, from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. on Sunday. Graduates and their families and friends may park their cars in Lot A (from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.), and

Commencement
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Commuter survey indicates the solo drive still reigns

The convenience and comfort of driving alone to work so far are keeping the parking lots at the Medical Center full, and public modes of transportation to the area underutilized. The preliminary results of a commuter survey distributed in December to all employees and students of the Boston University Medical Center and Boston City Hospital indicate that of the 2,926 people who responded (37 percent of those sent surveys), 67 percent drive alone to work, while 20 percent use public transportation. Another 10 percent participate in a car-or van-pool, and 3 percent walk. With this information and the various suggestions provided by respondents in hand, the medical area's Transportation Management Association (TMA) plans to recommend to responsible city, state and federal agencies that enhancements to mass transit services be made to turn this tide.

The Medical Center and Boston City Hospital's collaborative effort with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) to encourage the use of public transportation stems from a particularly grave concern.

BUMC to host World Class Commuting Day

World Class Commuting Day will be held for Medical Center employees, staff and students on Thursday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on the H-2 bridge. One of the main attractions of the day will be an opportunity for employees to register to join the Medical Center's car- or van-pooling service, Ridesource, which is sponsored by CARAVAN for Commuters, Inc. Employees who complete and return their data cards at the event automatically will become eligible to win several commuter-oriented prizes. A drawing will take place that

day at 1:15 p.m. Employees do not have to be present to win, nor are they obliged to participate in any ride-sharing program.

Representatives from the Boston University Medical Center/Boston City Hospital Transportation Management Association (TMA)—the sponsors of the event—as well as representatives of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) and the Central Artery/Tunnel Project, will be on hand to answer employees' commuting questions. Information on a wide variety of commuting options—from water

shuttles to biking to walking—as well as preliminary results of the TMA's commuter survey also will be available.

Between noon and 1 p.m., shuttle buses will take all interested employees from the Atrium Plaza to One South Station to view a three-dimensional model of the Central Artery/Tunnel Project.

For further information on World Class Commuting Day events, contact Maureen Flaherty, TMA transportation coordinator, at 638-8915 (x8915). □



Survey
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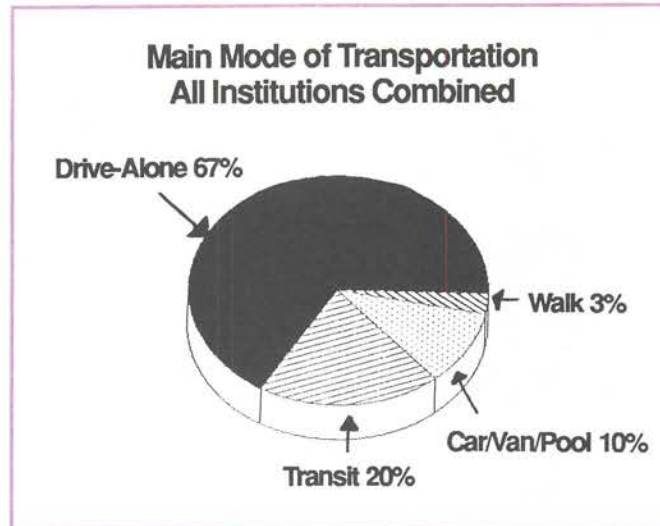
Commuter survey

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"The absolute bottom line of the mission is to cut down on air pollution," said Maureen Flaherty, the transportation coordinator for the medical area. Automobile emissions have become dangerously high in Boston, a problem pronounced in the South End by the Southeast Expressway and the heavy traffic in the medical area, she said.

Even small alterations in commuting behavior would reduce dramatically emissions, Flaherty said. "We'd be happy if everyone commuted with just one other person," she said.

The need to prepare for the traffic congestion expected to result from construction of both the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project and the upcoming local construction projects at



Of the 2,926 employees and students of Boston University Medical Center and Boston City Hospital who responded to the commuter survey issued in December, well over half drive to work alone.

the Medical Center are other significant reasons to reduce traffic, Flaherty said.

With the survey data, the TMA will be able to recommend to the MBTA possible

alterations in service to the area. Preliminary results reveal that the majority of respondents commute from within the city and from the South Shore. "Ultimately, what we hope to do is encourage employees who drive alone to consider other alternatives, such as public transportation and car- and van-pooling," Flaherty said.

Commuters interested in joining a car- or van-pool can be matched up with other riders from their area through the Medical Center's Ridesource, a computerized matching program provided by CARAVAN for Commuters, Inc. Medical Center employees, staff and students can register for this computer service during World Class Commuting Day on Thursday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., on the H-2 bridge. (See related story, page 1.)

The commuting survey was distributed in December to nearly 8,000 Medical Center and Boston City Hospital (BCH) employees, staff and students, in both English and Spanish. The results show that, of the 2,926 people who responded, 77 percent of those who drive to work park in Medical Center and BCH parking lots. Twenty-seven percent of the respondents use shuttle services offered by the two institutions. □

The following quotes are from the book "50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save The Earth," published by The Earth Works Group:

- "If only 1 percent of the car owners in America left their cars idle for one day a week, it would save an estimated 42 million gallons of gas a year. Destructive emissions would be cut down commensurately; we'd keep some 840 million pounds of CO₂ out of the atmosphere."
- "On an average, the 140 million cars in America are estimated to travel almost 4 billion miles a day...and according to DOT [Department of Transportation], they use over 200 million gallons of gas doing it."
- "One result of burning 200 million gallons of gas is the emission of about 4 billion pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. And that's just one day's worth."
- "If each commuter car carried just one more person, we'd save 600,000 gallons of gasoline a day and would prevent 12 million pounds of carbon dioxide from polluting the atmosphere."
- "In the Netherlands, 80 percent of train commuters get to the station on a bicycle; in Denmark, about 30 percent of all trips are taken on bikes; and Japan even has bicycle parking garages in urban areas." □

Commencement

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buses will provide transportation to the Charles River Campus at 9:45 a.m. The buses will make a return trip at the end of the Medical School activities. Lot A will close at 6 p.m.

A School of Medicine luncheon will be held at Case Gymnasium at 1:30 p.m. for graduates and guests with tickets. (Invitations must be presented at the door.) Graduates should assemble in the second-floor dance studio at 2:15 p.m. to put on robes and line up. The School of Medicine commencement will begin at 2:30 p.m., while the SPH commencement will begin at 2 p.m. in the School for the Arts concert hall. The Goldman School ceremony will be held in Morse Auditorium, at 3 p.m. A review and photographs of commencement will follow in the June edition.

Alumni weekend for the School of Medicine will take place on Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11. Along with the individual class reunions, there will be a scientific program featuring School of Medicine graduate Joseph Civetta, '63, speaking on ethical issues in medicine, and Nobel Laureate Joseph Murray, M.D., speaking on his pioneering work in kidney transplantation. □

Free glaucoma screening

The Gundersen Eye Center will host a free glaucoma screening on Thursday, June 20, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., and from 1 to 3:30 p.m. It will be held on the 10th floor of the Doctor's Office Building.

Employees of Boston University School of Medicine and Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry are welcome.

The test takes 10 minutes. Patients' eyes will not be dilated. □



School of Medicine student channels his ideals into his work

Andy Chiou, a third-year student at the School of Medicine, is somewhat of a household name amongst his colleagues, and one conversation with him is enough to indicate why. Whether the 23-year-old is referring to the School of Medicine, to his rotations at Boston City Hospital, to his work as a trustee of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), or to his experiences as a member of the U.S. Air Force student scholarship program, he radiates a captivating enthusiasm.

Chiou was only half way into his seat for this interview when he began to speak about the day he'd had in Juvenile Court, observing

the system that deals with many of the young patients he is apt to treat at Boston City Hospital (BCH), generally in custody, abuse, malnourishment or drug-related cases. The visit to court was part of his training in the pediatric rotation at BCH under Associate Professor Benjamin S. Siegel, M.D.

Chiou noted the impersonal, cattle-car like nature of the court system, but said he was particularly struck by the compassion the judges demonstrated. "What was really noticable was that these judges really spent time talking to these kids, not as judges but as counselors," he said.

Compassion is the factor that drew Chiou to

medicine, and it remains his overriding motivation for staying in the field. The son of a dentist and homemaker in Peoria, Ill., Chiou said the desire to help others started when he was "very, very young." "Maybe it was when I was a Cub Scout," he said.

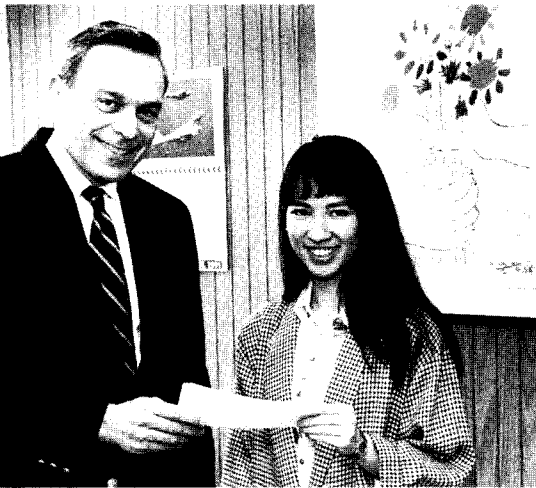
Chiou entered the School of Medicine under its Six-Year Program, which begins when students are juniors in the undergraduate program at Boston University. He's a strong proponent of the program, because, he said, it "keeps a certain idealism alive." It "gets



Third-year student Andy Chiou

those 17-year-olds who want to be physicians for idealistic reasons and says, 'You know what? You can be in medical school in two years.' ... They

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School of Medicine student Ann Tong, who arrived in the United States 10 years ago as a "boat person" from Vietnam, was honored last month with a \$2,000 Student Research Fellowship from the national Alpha Omega Alpha honor medical society. She is the second BUSM student in three years to receive the award. Having completed her second year of medical school at BUSM, Tong is spending this year at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, where she is doing research on a drug known as CPF, which shows promise for treating AIDS. Barry Manuel, M.D., associate dean for continuing medical education, last month presented Tong with the check. She will return to the School next fall to begin her third year of medical school.

Dental plan employees invited to open house at new facility

An open house for all employees enrolled in the new Boston University Dental Health Plan will be held on Thursday, May 9, at the new dental facility at 930 Commonwealth Avenue. Doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and from 4 to 7 p.m. Light finger food will be served.

A full dental staff, made

up of faculty and staff affiliated with the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, has begun treating patients at the School of Graduate Dentistry's state-of-the-art facility at 100 East Newton Street, and will begin treating patients at the Commonwealth Ave. facility soon. □

BUSM students earn pledges for Dana Farber in run of Boston Marathon

Nine School of Medicine students fund raised their way through their run of the Boston Marathon last month, raising some \$150,000 in pledges for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. The chairpersons of this group, Bill Sandis from the Class of '94 and his brother Peter, are the grandsons of one of the institute's namesakes, Sidney Farber.

Students Vivek Ahya,

Richard Formica, Steve Fleet, Ken Weisman, Anisha Abraham, Christian Hansen, Chuck Weaver, Eric Olsen and Bill Sandis participated in the effort. □

Chiou

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don't lose their focus."

Chiou's commitment remains very much intact. "Medical school is really incredible," he said. "How many people have reached inside somebody's gut, or touched a beating human heart? How many people experience that?" As a first-year student, he said, "I thought, 'How can I possibly learn more during my first year, because they throw so much at you.' Then in your second year you think, 'No way could I learn more.' And then in the third year there's an explosion of learning; all of what you've learned comes together when you start applying it."

He praised the opportunities the School provides for clinical experience from the outset of the first year. "We have hands on, patient management that students at many other schools don't get," he said.

"What's special is that in the first year you're in the Boston City emergency room," he said. "For the first time in my life I saw someone carted in who'd been shot." The residents and attendings are unusually willing to teach on the job at the hospital, he added. "I'm at a stage where it's very exciting," he said.

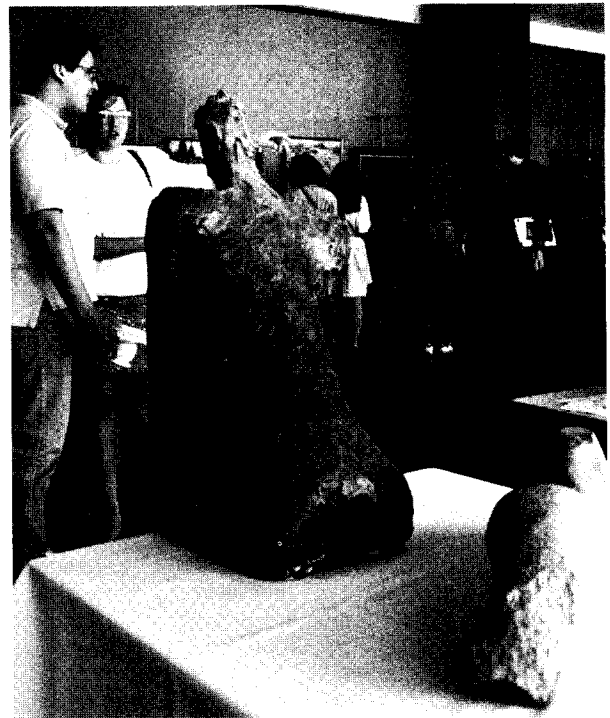
While the rigors of the traditional third year schedule would justify Chiou focusing exclusively on his academic obligations,

his involvement in the School extends far beyond these responsibilities, as it does, he said, for many School of Medicine students. This year, he is a trustee of the New England chapter of AMSA, which coordinates regional and national programs for developing legislation that benefits medical school students, medical schools and people suffering from a lack of health insurance. He also is president of the School's Student

Committee on Medical School Affairs (SCOMSA).

His participation

in the U.S. Air Force scholarship program has drawn him into situations that most people, let alone a 23-year-old, rarely have experienced. "It's frightening, exciting, tiring," he said. While fulfilling his commitment to the Air Force last summer in Dayton, Ohio, he was taught to fly a jet by being told to take the wheel of an airplane while his instructor sat by. He performed CPR on a person for the first time in his life and he was exposed to tear gas as part of his training. "I know what the troops felt like in Saudi Arabia with gas masks," he said. The Air Force is "a fabulous experience to broaden yourself with"—not that Chiou is lacking in experiences. □



Art Day 1991—Faculty, staff and students turned out to view the art work of many of their colleagues on April 16 in the Hiebert Lounge. Hugues J.-P. Ryser, M.D., professor of pathology, displayed his sculpture, titled "Here I Am."

Facilities management crews honored for efforts at Goldman

In honor of the maintenance, custodial and construction crews who put in countless hours getting the School of Graduate Dentistry in shape for its accreditation evaluation this winter, the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry hosted a tea on April 22. The workers replaced ceilings, refurbished lights, installed 60 new dental chairs and built an emergency recall center, amongst many other things. □

Callahan Tunnel will be closed most nights in May

Beginning this month, the Callahan Tunnel will be closed from midnight to 5:30 a.m. for five or six nights a week so that workers may install a safer, more durable ceiling.

Work crews will begin demolishing the tunnel's ex-

isting tile ceiling sometime this month, replacing it with a porcelain panel system.

Both inbound and outbound traffic will travel through the Sumner Tunnel during the time the tunnel is shut down to traffic. □